

REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding non-final Office Action mailed July 27, 2004. Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claims 1 – 6 and 8 - 20 remain pending. In particular, Applicants have amended claims 1 – 3, 5, 8 – 11 and 14 - 19, and have canceled claim 7 without prejudice, waiver, or disclaimer. Applicants have canceled claim 7 merely to reduce the number of disputed issues and to facilitate early allowance and issuance of other claims in the present application. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the subject matter of this canceled claim in a continuing application, if Applicants so choose, and do not intend to dedicate the canceled subject matter to the public. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims are respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

The Office Action indicates that claims 14, 17, 18 and 19 stand objected to because of various informalities. As set forth above, Applicants have amended these claims and respectfully assert that the objection has been accommodated.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Office Action indicates that claims 1, 5 – 8, 10 – 11, 14 – 16 and 19 - 20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by *Google* (Google Friends Newsletter, May 23, 2001). Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Turning first to the *Google* reference, Applicants respectfully assert that *Google* merely indicates operation of a conventional search engine. Specifically, *Google* shows that a word is searched and that the user is presented with information corresponding to the number of web sites in which that word was located. Applicants respectfully assert that this teaching

is legally deficient for the purpose anticipating the features/limitations recited in the presently pending claims.

Turning now to the claims, claim 1 recites:

1. (Currently Amended) ***A computer-implemented method for checking the spelling of words in a document during performance of an automated spell check of the document, comprising:***
identifying an unfamiliar word in the document;
generating at least one alternative spelling of the unfamiliar word to create a word variant;
providing the unfamiliar word and the at least one word variant to a search engine configured to search for a frequency of use of the unfamiliar word and the at least one word variant; and
presenting information corresponding to the frequency of use of the unfamiliar word and the at least one word variant to the user.
(Emphasis Added).

Applicants respectfully assert that the cited art does not teach or otherwise disclose at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claim 1. In particular, Applicants respectfully assert that *Google* does not teach or otherwise disclose at least “presenting information corresponding to the frequency of use of the unfamiliar word and the at least one word variant to the user.” Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 1 is in condition for allowance. Since claims 2 – 6 and 8 – 10 are dependent claims that incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 1, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims also are in condition for allowance. Additionally, these claims recite other features/limitations that can serve as an independent basis for patentability. By way of example, claim 8 recites:

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the frequency is expressed in terms of ***number of hits for the unfamiliar word and the at least one word variant.***
(Emphasis Added).

Applicants respectfully assert that the cited art does not teach or otherwise disclose at least the additional features/limitations recited in claim 8. Specifically, the *Google* reference does not teach or otherwise disclose that the frequency is expressed in terms of number of hits

for the unfamiliar word and the at least one word variant. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 8 clearly is in condition for allowance.

With respect to claim 11, that claim recites:

11. (Currently Amended) A system for checking the spelling of words, comprising:

means for identifying an unfamiliar word in a document during performance of an automated spell check of the document;

means for generating at least one alternative spelling of the unfamiliar word to create a word variant;

means for providing the unfamiliar word and the at least one word variant to a search engine configured to search for a frequency of use of the unfamiliar word and the at least one word variant; and

means for presenting information corresponding to the frequency of use of the unfamiliar word and the at least one word variant to the user.

(Emphasis Added).

Applicants respectfully assert that the cited art does not teach or otherwise disclose at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claim 11. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 11 is in condition for allowance. Since claims 12 – 15 are dependent claims that incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 11, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims also are in condition for allowance. Additionally, these claims recite other features/limitations that can serve as an independent basis for patentability.

By way of example, claim 14 recites:

14. The system of claim 11, wherein the means for presenting the frequency of use results to the user comprise means for presenting an indication of the frequency with which the unfamiliar word and the at least one word variant appear within a database.

Applicants respectfully assert that the cited art does not teach or otherwise disclose at least the additional features/limitations recited in claim 14. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 14 clearly is in condition for allowance.

With respect to claim 16, that claim recites:

16. A computer readable medium including a program for checking the spelling of words, comprising:

logic configured to identify an unfamiliar word in a document during performance of an automated spell check of the document;

logic configured to generate at least one alternative spelling of the unfamiliar word to create a word variant;

logic configured to provide the unfamiliar word and the at least one word variant to a search engine configured to search for a frequency of use of the unfamiliar word and the at least one word variant; and

logic configured to present information corresponding to the frequency of use of the word and the at least one word variant to the user.

(Emphasis Added).

Applicants respectfully assert that the cited art does not teach or otherwise disclose at least the features/limitations emphasized above in claim 16. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 16 is in condition for allowance. Since claims 17 – 20 are dependent claims that incorporate all the features/limitations of claim 16, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims also are in condition for allowance. Additionally, these claims recite other features/limitations that can serve as an independent basis for patentability. By way of example, claim 19 recites:

19. The computer readable medium of claim 16, wherein the logic configured to present the frequency of use to the user comprises logic configured to present an indication of the frequency with which the unfamiliar word and the at least one word variant appear within a database.

Applicants respectfully assert that the cited art does not teach or otherwise disclose at least the additional features/limitations recited in claim 19. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 19 clearly is in condition for allowance.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action indicates that claims 2 – 3, 12, and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Google* and further in view of *Nielsen*. Additionally, the Office Action indicates that claims 4, 13 and 18 stand rejected under 35

U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Google* in view of *Lawrence*. The Office Action further indicates that claim 9 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Google*. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

In particular, Applicants respectfully assert that, as set forth above, the *Google* reference does not teach or reasonably suggest at least the features/limitations emphasized above in the respective independent claims under the section of this response entitled Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 102. Since neither *Nielson* nor *Lawrence* remedy the deficiencies mentioned above with respect to the *Google* reference, Applicants respectfully assert that the combinations of references are legally deficient for the purpose of rendering obvious the features/limitations recited in dependent claims 2 – 4, 9 12 – 13 and 17 – 18. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that these claims also are in condition for allowance.

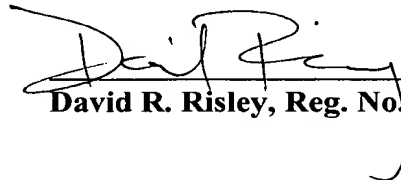
Cited Art Made of Record

The cited art made of record has been considered, but is not believed to affect the patentability of the presently pending claims.

CONCLUSION

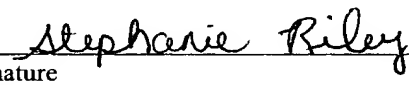
In light of the foregoing amendments and for at least the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that all objections and/or rejections have been traversed, rendered moot, and/or accommodated, and that the now pending claims 1 – 6 and 8 - 20 are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,


David R. Risley, Reg. No. 39,345

**THOMAS, KAYDEN,
HORSTEMEYER & RISLEY, L.L.P.**
Suite 1750
100 Galleria Parkway N.W.
Atlanta, Georgia 30339
(770) 933-9500

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on 10/12/04.


Signature